at reduction of maternal mortality in the forthcoming phase-II of the Reproductive and Child Health Programme.

Increasing private hospitals and clinics

†247. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of private hospitals and clinics is on the rise day by day throughout the country;

(b) whether the present norms for giving licenses to such clinics and hospitals are adequate;

(c) whether such hospitals and clinics have been given a free hand for taking arbitrary fees from patients;

(d) whether Government proposed to frame any law relating to fixation of fee for such hospitals and clinics; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (e) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is the responsibility of State Governments to ensure compliance of health standards by private hospitals, clinics, nursing homes etc. in the State. However, the Government of India is in the process of formulating a Bill prescribing minimum standards and specifications for hospitals, nursing homes and other clinical establishments.

Bill for regulating private clinics

248. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to draft a model Bill for regulation of private clinics in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.